

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13
AID-05 IGA-02 DHA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /101 W
-----098912 032143Z /64/41

O R 031133Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3674

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAAMABAD 8981

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (TEXT - PARA 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA

REF: ISLAMABAD 8980 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL ZIA, CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, CALLED ME IN AT 3:00 P.M. LOCAL SEPTEMBER THIRD. HE SAID HE WANTED TO INFORM ME AND THE USG THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WAS ARRESTED LAST NIGHT IN KARACHI. THE ARREST WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE POLICE, NOT THE MILITARY, AT THE INSTANCE OF THE LAHORE HIGH COURT THAT HAS BEFORE IT A CASE OF MURDER IN WHICH FIVE OTHER PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND MR. BHUTTO
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APPEARS TO BE A KEY FIGURE.

2. GENERAL ZIA SAID THAT THE INTERESTS OF "THE STATE" WERE INVOLVED, BUT "WE PREFERRED TO LET THE PRIVATE CASE TAKE ITS COURSE IN THE COURTS". HE SAID HE PERSONALLY DID NOT EXPECT MUCH REACTION IN THE COUNTRY ALTHOUGH BHUTTO'S PARTY MIGHT HAVE SOME REACTION. HE SAID THERE SEEMED TO

BE NO LEGAL BARRIER TO BHUTTO'S CONTESTING THE ELECTION FROM JAIL; MURDER IS A NON-BAILABLE CHARGE AND WHILE THE SUPREME COURT IN THEORY COULD INTERVENE, HE DID NOT THINK THEY WERE LIKELY TO. ZIA GAVE IT AS HIS IMPRESSION THAT IN ANY CASE A LARGE SEGMENT OF BHUTTO'S PPP PARTY WOULD CONTEST THE ELECTIONS, AND THAT THE OTHER PARTY, THE PNA, WOULD REMAIN UNITED, SO THAT EFFECTIVE ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD AND A REASONABLY STABLE GOVERNMENT FORMED.

3. ZIA SAID HE HAD WANTED TO INFORM ME DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ARREST OF BHUTTO IS AN INTERNAL MATTER BECAUSE HE FELT THE USG COULD BE INTERESTED IN THE SITUATION AND ITS BACKGROUND. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT HE HAD INFORMED ME OF THIS SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT THAT WAS OF INTEREST.

4. WE ASSUME AMBASSADORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IMPORTANT TO PAKISTAN ARE ALSO BEING BRIEFED.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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